

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 02490 311208Z

51

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 EA-06 SS-15

NSC-05 SP-02 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 CIEP-01 L-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06

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R 310740Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8447

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, FR, TO

SUBJ: VISIT OF FRENCH "MISSION DE DIALOGUE"

REF: (A) NIAMEY 3560 (NOTAL); (B) OUAGADOUGOU 2196 (NOTAL)
(C) LOME 2267

SUMMARY: STEPHANE HESSEL, LEADER OF FRENCH DIALOGUE MISSION,
HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH GOT ATTITUDES TOWARD CONTINUED
COOPERATION WITH FRANCE. HE PREDICTED GOF WOULD DETERMINE
DIRECTION ITS AID POLICY TOWARD FRANCOPHONE AFRICA EARLY 1975.
END SUMMARY.

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR CAMPREDON, AT HIS REQUEST, STOPPED BY
RESIDENCE FOR SUNDOWNERS YESTERDAY WITH STEPHANE HESSEL, LEADER
OF FRENCH "MISSION DE DIALOGUE." THERE IS NOT DOUBT INITIATIVE
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PAGE 02 LOME 02490 311208Z

WAS HESSEL'S. HE CLEARLY SEEKS CONTACT WITH WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES

IN COUNTRIES MISSION IS VISITING (REFTELS A AND B).

2. HESSEL SAID HE BELIEVED ON BASIS TALKS IN LOME THAT GOT BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND DESIRABILITY OF COORDINATING DONOR EFFORTS. HE REALIZED, HOWEVER, IF GOT DID NOT, DIFFICULTIES OF COORDINATING WESTERN ASSISTANCE WITH THAT OF CHINESE AND NORTH KOREANS. IN CONNECTION WITH ENTENTE FUND, HESSEL NOTED THAT TOGOLESE PREFERRED BILATERAL TO REGIONAL AID.

3. HESSEL, IN REPLY TO MY QUERY ABOUT MISSION'S OVER-ALL IMPRESSIONS TO DATE, SAID HE WAS SURPRISED AND PLEASED AFRICANS HAD BEEN SO FORTHCOMING IN SHARING INFORMATION AND THOUGHTS WITH HIM. HE HAD EXPECTED THEM TO BE LACKING IN CONFIDENCE, AND EVEN RESENTFUL, TOWARD FRENCH VISITORS. INSTEAD AFRICANS HAD SHOWN CANDOR IN EXPRESSING WHAT THEY LIKED AND DID NOT LIKE ABOUT FRENCH ASSISTANCE POLICY AND EFFORT.

4. MENTIONING THAT THIS WAS ONLY FIRST OF SEVERAL TRIPS TO BE MADE FOR PURPOSE OF FRANCO-AFRICAN "DIALOGUE," HESSEL SAID ABELIN AND OTHER OFFICIALS MIGHT COME LATER ALTHOUGH GOF WANTED TO SPREAD RESPONSIBILITY AND DIRECTION FOR SUCH MISSIONS VERY THINLY. HE PREDICTED THAT BY EARLY 1975 GOF WOULD MAKE WHATEVER DECISIONS WERE WARRANTED BY RESULTS OF DIALOGUE.

5. TODAY'S "TOGO-PRESSE" REPORTS MEETING YESTERDAY BETWEEN FRENCH MISSION AND MOST GOT MINISTERS. GOT FORMIN HUNLEDE, WHO OPENED MEETING, IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO RECONSIDER FRANCO-TOGOLESE COOPERATION. HUNLEDE SAID TOGO HAD DECIDED TO COOPERATE WITH FRANCE AND THAT, WITH GOODWILL EXISTING ON BOTH SIDES, THEY COULD DISCUSS SINCERELY HOW BEST TO READJUST THEIR COOPERATION TO NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FRANCE AND TOGO. HESSEL REPLIED FRENCH HAD COME HERE TO LEARN IN WHAT MANNER TOGO INTENDS NOW TO PURSUE COOPERATION WITH FRANCE, RECOGNIZING THAT OLD COOPERATION IS OUTDATED.

6. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR CAMPREDON'S ENTHUSIASM FOR CONTINUED FRENCH ROLE HERE WAS NOT DIMINISHED IN SPITE OF GOT RHETORIC ABOUT "IMPERIALISTS" AND THOSE GUILTY OF "ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT" AGAINST EYADEMA. APPARENTLY, HESSEL, TOO, IS UNDAUNTED. THIS CONTRASTS WITH ATTITUDE OF GERMAN AMBASSADOR WHO HAS SENIOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LOME 02490 311208Z

WEST GERMAN AID OFFICIAL VISITING TOGO. AMBASSADOR TOLD ME YESTERDAY HE HAD INFORMED GOT OFFICIALS IN PRESENCE HIS VISITOR THAT IT MUST REPAY LOAN FOR ITT OR FORGET ABOUT FURTHER FRG ASSISTANCE ON LOME PORT DEVELOPMENT (REFTEL C).
RAWLS

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